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Russian hardliners assail START II
MOSCOW (AP) — Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev told lawmakers Tuesday that rejecting START II could revive Russia's besieged fortress mentality, but hardliners warned that the treaty would give the United States nuclear supremacy. Speaking on the first day of legislative hearings, Kozyrev defended the landmark agreement that would cut the number of Russian and U.S. long-range nuclear missiles by two thirds over the next decade. The treaty faces a difficult fight in Russia's Supreme Soviet, which is dominated by pro-communists elected before the collapse of the Soviet Union. The hearings are expected to continue for about two months, but could be delayed as lawmakers concentrated on domestic political turmoil. Hardline lawmaker Iona Andronov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet's Committee for International Affairs, said the treaty's provisions were unfair. Its implementation would put Russia and its former allies into "a subservient position" to the United States, he said. "The START II treaty does not correspond to Russia's national and state interest."



Jordan Times
An independent Arab political daily
عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرابطة
Jordanian Press Foundation
The University of Jordan
DIBS
SERIALS
SECTION

Kuwaiti lawmakers propose matawa panel
KUWAIT (AP) — Five Islamist lawmakers have proposed a committee to protect Islamic religious values in the emirate, press reports said Tuesday. Arab Times, an English-language daily, said the committee would spread good values through "gentle advice" and fighting alien traditions and customs that contradict Islamic teachings and traditions. According to the draft law published by the paper, members of the committee will not patrol the streets with whips to make shopkeepers close down during prayer time or forcing women to cover their hair, something akin to the role of the matawa in neighbouring Saudi Arabia. It passed by the parliament and approved by the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the committee would include 15 members: Seven representatives of government ministries and eight members of the public. The draft said they would receive complaints from the public, relay them to the concerned government agency and follow up on measures taken by the government in that regard. Nineteen out of the 50 parliament members are Islamists, an unprecedented number in the legislature's history. Kuwait witnessed a return-to-religion movement during the 1990-91 Iraqi occupation and after liberation.

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Danese detained UAE released

KHARTOUM (AP) — Two Danese detained in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for six days were released Tuesday after they were tortured during their imprisonment. Since 1990 Gulf war, in which Sudanese supported Iraq, relations between Khartoum and other countries have been strained and several have been arrested and deported by the Sudanese government. On returning home, they claimed they were tortured during detention. In the latest incident, the government's Sudan News Agency said two Danese have returned home and two others remain imprisoned in UAE. The four were arrested in 1991 in connection with alleged contacts with Sudan's Muslim fundamentalist movement. They were not officially charged.

Iran minister survives no-confidence vote

TEHRAN (AP) — Iran's minister of transportation, Mohammad Saeedi Kya, Tuesday escaped a vote of no-confidence by parliament, where he was summoned to explain recent air and train disasters in which 205 people were killed. Tehran Television reported. The broadcast said Mr. Saeedi Kya received 121 votes in favour, and the same number against him, from the 270-member chamber. The rest of the deputies were either not present or abstained. The minister would have been impeached only if two thirds of the deputies voted against him.

Iran's state security forces get new intelligence chief

TEHRAN (AP) — Iran's supreme leader Tuesday appointed Mohammad Reza Naqdi, a middle-ranking officer in the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, as head of intelligence for the internal security forces. Naqdi was appointed by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the country's spiritual leader and commander-in-chief of the armed forces, to head the "disciplinary forces" section of the "internal security forces." The forces control state security, including drug enforcement and police. The radio said Mr. Naqdi was an officer in the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, the country's main fighting force, and that Khamenei's decree promoted him to the rank of brigadier general. It gave no other details about him, and little is known about Mr. Naqdi, who has not figured among the country's top brass. The radio also did not give any information about Brigadier-General Reza Sefolahi, who was appointed head of security and intelligence by Ayatollah Khamenei in April 1991. It was not clear whether Mr. Naqdi would replace him or work with him. Mr. Naqdi's "transfer" is somewhat artificial, since the disciplinary forces are part of the guards corps.

Suspected extremist shot in Egypt

ASSIUT (AP) — A policeman Tuesday shot and wounded a suspected Muslim extremist while searching his house for arms, police said. A police official said the incident occurred at the town of Manfalut just north of the Muslim fundamentalist hotbed of Assiut, 320 kilometres south of Cairo. The official said that Babu Alameddin, a bird seller, fired at Captain Ashraf Husei while he was searching his house for weapons and ammunition. "The officer had to return fire," the official said. Alameddin was hit in the arm and leg and taken to hospital, he added. The information said Alameddin was suspected of providing money and arms to the extremist Al Gamaa Al Islamiya. The group wants to overthrow President Hosni Mubarak's secular government and replace it with an Iran-likeocracy. It traditionally targeted police and Christian troops but last year began attacking tourists. Muslim extremists have claimed responsibility for a bomb attack on a Cairo office last Friday that killed three people, including a Swede and a Turk. Two Americans, a Frenchman and a Canadian were among the wounded.

Palestinian, settler killed amid army siege of Gaza Strip

Combined agency dispatches
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — A 75-year-old Palestinian was shot dead by an Israeli settler in Arah Jerusalem and another Israeli was killed in the occupied Gaza Strip Tuesday, hours after the Israeli army sealed off the coastal strip after the fatal stabbing of two Israelis. The elderly Palestinian, identified as Jumah Abdul Aziz Misk, was shot and killed by an Israeli settler whose car was allegedly stoned in the Ras Al Amond neighbourhood of Arah East Jerusalem, reports said. Mr. Misk was reported dead on arrival at Jerusalem's Mokassed hospital. Elsewhere in Gaza, three Palestinians were wounded when soldiers opened fire to disperse stone-throwing demonstrators in Khan Yunis, Israeli reports said. Israeli radios said the Israeli man killed Tuesday was about 40. They said he apparently made a wrong turn and approached the Rafah refugee camp, which is near the border with Egypt. The victim was both stoned and shot, according to the radios and an official at Gaza settlers council, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The radios said several bullet casings from a Kalashnikov rifle were found at the site of the 2:30 p.m. (1200 GMT) attack. The army confirmed only that a civilian had been killed and said it was checking further. Soldiers imposed a curfew on Rafah, which is home to about 90,000 Palestinians, and launched searches, Arab reports said. The attack occurred nearly 12 hours after soldiers imposed a closure order that blocked at least 35,000 Gazans from reaching jobs in Israel. The army said the Erez crossing from Gaza into Israel was shut to Palestinian traffic at 3:00 a.m. (0100 GMT). The measure was one-way and did not prevent Israelis from entering Gaza. It was not known how long the Israeli closure measure would last, but the Haaretz daily said it was expected to be lifted in several days. Dr. Haider Abdul Shafi, the chief Palestinian negotiator to U.S.-backed Middle East peace talks, condemned the closure as unfair since about half of Gaza's work force is employed in Israel. "The closure goes along with the usual Israeli attitude of imposing collective punishment which certainly is going to create all kinds of difficulties, mainly economic ones, for the people in the Gaza Strip," Mr. Abdul Shafi said. A statement from the Palestine Liberation Organisation in Tunis accused Israel of trying to starve the Palestinians through the closure. An army statement Monday said the Gaza Strip was being closed to examine entry permits and prevent violence between Arabs and Jews. In deciding on the closure Monday, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who also is defence minister, dismissed calls from right-wingers for an indefinite, blanket closure or an Israeli boycott of the Middle East peace talks. "The peace talks have to take place because in them lies the medium and long-term solution," he said. "First of all, the purpose of this closure, which is for a few days, is to try to reexamine several areas regarding checks and procedures at the roadblocks," Mr. Rabin said Monday. "There is no intention to make this a long-term closure." The attack sparked a heated debate on the future of the Gaza Strip. Israeli radio stations questioned public figures and took calls from the public all day on the question of Gaza. Members of Rabin's Labour Party and other leftists said only a political settlement to the Israeli-



Israeli soldiers watch Palestinian workers as they return home to the occupied Gaza Strip after the strip was sealed off Tuesday (AFP photo).

Hamas denies rejecting U.S. plan, will abide by majority decision

**By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter**
AMMAN — The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas Tuesday denied rejecting a six-point U.S. proposal to resolve the explosive crisis and said if the majority of the Palestinian people wanted to go ahead with the peace process, Hamas would respect their wishes and stop its attempts to break off Palestinian peace talks with Israel. "We neither accept nor reject the six-point plan of (U.S. Secretary of State Warren) Christopher," Hamas representative in Jordan Mohammad Nazzal told the Jordan Times. "We are saying that the peace negotiations should not be linked with the immediate implementation of U.N. Resolution 799." Mr. Nazzal said three of the six points included in the deal proposed by Mr. Christopher were "irrelevant" to the immediate implementation of Resolution 799. "Why should we approve of irrelevant statements? There is no need. Israel should announce that it will no longer carry out expulsions or transfer policies. That is the single most important point along with the implementation of Resolution 799," Mr. Nazzal said. Mr. Nazzal confirmed that his movement would continue to oppose the peace process regardless of whether Resolution 799 was implemented or not. He said that the only condition under which Hamas would stop actively opposing the peace process would be in the "framework of a democratic Palestinian political arena in which the majority (of the Palestinians), voted in favour of the process." Mr. Nazzal said, however, that Hamas was not contemplating continuing discussions with the PLO leadership over joining the Palestine National Council (PNC) any time in the near future. "For the moment the issue of our joining the PNC has been shelved until further notice," said Mr. Nazzal, who was one of Hamas representatives to engage in a PLO-Hamas dialogue in Tunis and Khartoum in December. Asked what conditions Hamas now puts on its joining the PNC, he said that "democratisation of the PNC and the PLO Executive Committee is of primary concern to us." Mr. Nazzal said if the PLO was to democratised "we would join today." Any decisions made by a "free PNC would be binding to us, including participation in the peace process," he said. He said Hamas would participate in any elections in the occupied territories provided that "they were not linked to the peace process." Hamas will not categorically rule out its participation if the elections were linked to the peace process but such "decisions have not been made yet," he added. PLO officials close to Chairman Yasser Arafat said Tuesday that the PLO leadership was "in no hurry to include Hamas in the PNC at this stage." "Right now that would be a

Shells land near exiles' camp in South Lebanon

TYRE, Lebanon (AP) — A roadside bomb exploded Tuesday near a U.N. peacekeepers' vehicle in South Lebanon and artillery shells crashed around the camp where nearly 400 Palestinian exiles are stranded. No casualties were reported. Meanwhile, civilians engaged in fist fights with members of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah to demand a halt to the use of their villages as launching pads for attacks on Israel. Timur Goksel, spokesman for the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), said the bomb attack took place at 2:30 a.m. (0030 GMT) near the village of Qaile, 10 kilometres south of the port of Tyre. Mr. Goksel said the blast inflicted damage on the armoured personnel carrier, which carried five soldiers of UNIFIL's Fijian battalion. He said investigation showed that the attackers "came from Qaile village. Obviously the UNIFIL vehicle was the target, but we don't know why." Qaile is a village in the western coastal sector of South Lebanon, where both Hizbollah and the mainstream Shiite Amal movement have influence. Police said Israeli gunners or their militia allies inside Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon fired 11 mortar rounds, all falling only a kilometre away from the exiles' camp just north of the zone. They said the bombardment, which renewed around noon (1000 GMT), targeted the supply route that the exiles and sympathetic villagers have been using to replenish the exiled men with food and medical stocks. None of the men, expelled by Israel Dec. 17, was hurt in the barrage. The Israeli army confirmed that the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) opened fire in the area "when they spotted suspicious movement. They opened fire and then stopped." Meanwhile the exiles' spokesman, Abdul Aziz Rantisi, praised the killing of two Israelis in Tel Aviv Monday by a Palestinian armed with two knives. (Continued on page 5)

'Tehran buying up ex-Soviet nuclear stores'

BOON (AP) — Iran has been snapping up nuclear stores thrown into the black market by the break-up of the Soviet Union, a news magazine reported Tuesday. "Almost every time in the last year there was an attempt to sell radioactive material from the ex-Soviet Union. Interested parties from Iran were present," the weekly Stern quoted an unnamed expert at the federal intelligence service as saying. The news magazine released in advance a synopsis of the report appearing in Thursday's editions. Stern said there were more than 600 weapons dealers or agents in Germany, Switzerland and Austria working for Iran, most of them in Germany. It said there were 200 "front companies" worldwide helping the Iranian nuclear effort, again most in Germany, but that government officials thought the figures were probably higher. Syria and Libya were also trying to up ex-Soviet stores of radioactive material, Stern said, but "Iran is far and away the craziest." The magazine also said North Korea was "a de facto nuclear power" and quoted a report from Russia's secret service, which claimed that last year 56 kilograms of plutonium were smuggled out of the former Soviet Union to North Korea. It claimed that India and Pakistan were "on the verge of nuclear war" in early 1990 over Kashmir. Stern quoted Ronald Lehmann, a U.S. armsaments official, as saying, "Thank God, no one knew how close we really were to that." Stern also claimed that contrary to public statements, Russia would continue nuclear weapons testing. It cited a secret decree by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to prepare to continue nuclear testing on an island in the Arctic Ocean. Iran's defence minister meanwhile accused the United States of demonising Tehran in an effort to alarm regional countries and sell them weapons left over from (Continued on page 5)

Somalis inch towards talks; clashes in southern port city

KISMAYU (AP) — U.S. soldiers shot and killed one Somali man and wounded another in the clan war-plagued port of Kismayu, but the violence did not stop rivals from taking another tentative step towards peace Tuesday. Fifteen groups turned in lists of their heavy weapons to U.S.-led forces Tuesday, officials said. The submission of the lists and the expected transfer of the weapons to allied control was viewed as indicating the factions' willingness to work for peace in a country devastated by war. Allied soldiers trying to halt clan warfare have at times found themselves caught in the cross-fire. On Monday night, an army foot patrol came under fire and shot back, killing one Somali, a U.S. military spokesman said. While trying to retrieve the body, the patrol was fired on again and shot one Somali in the chest, the spokesman said. The condition of the wounded man was not known, and no U.S. soldiers were reported hurt. Kismayu has been tense since supporters of Mohammed Said Hirsi, known as General Morgan, launched a surprise attack last week that sent rival warlord Col-

Officials seek grass-roots support

British imposes strict control on exports, page 2

Saddam: Iraq wants better ties with U.S.

ROME (R) — Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein said in a television interview Monday he would be willing to improve relations with the United States if Washington shared the same feeling. "Iraq is ready to establish a new relationship with the United States if it is ready to do the same," the Iraqi leader said. President Saddam was interviewed by an American journalist in Baghdad. Italian state television, which showed the interview Monday, said it was the first time it has been broadcast. Asked what he would say to President Bill Clinton if the U.S. president was in the same room, President Saddam replied: "I will tell him what I think when he is sitting here in front of me." He also said he hoped Mr. Clinton would succeed in winning a good reputation in the world. U.N. inspectors pile pressure on Iraq
The head of a new U.N. inspection team heading for Iraq said Tuesday he would increase pressure on Baghdad to name the foreign suppliers for its nuclear weapons programme. Dimitri Periccos, a Greek scientist, leads a team of 24 nuclear experts to Baghdad Wednesday on an eight-day inspection. He said he would press for supplier details and check about 24 sites, including some new suspect locations, for nuclear-related activity banned since Iraq lost the war over Kuwait in 1991. Identification of Iraq's suppliers of equipment for its nuclear, chemical, ballistic and biological weapons programmes is one of the most important remaining demands the United Nations has before lifting economic sanctions on Baghdad. The Periccos said he would refuse Baghdad's demand for a complete list of questions about its supply network. After nearly two years of refus-

Federal agents brace for showdown with Texas cult

WACO, Texas (AP) — Federal agents sent in more firepower overnight as a bloody standoff with a religious cult entered a third day, but they said there was no rush to storm the compound. Six more children left at dawn Tuesday. A convoy of 25 trucks, cars and vans carrying agents in riot gear moved in Monday evening as onlookers were ordered out, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) sent its elite hostage rescue team to the scene. But authorities refused to say how long the 400 law enforcement officers massed outside the fog-shrouded compound were prepared to let the standoff with cult leader David Koresh and an estimated 75 followers, including some British citizens, drag on. "There's no rush on something like this. You have to take your time," Ted Royster, special agent of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BAITF), said Tuesday. "You want to save as many people as possible." Authorities talked by telephone periodically with cult members Monday, a day after a raid by about 100 BATF agents erupted in gun battles that killed four agents and two Koresh followers, one reportedly his two-year-old daughter. The talks continued with Mr. Koresh early Tuesday, Mr. Royster said. He did not know Mr. Koresh's physical condition. Mr. Koresh, the 33-year-old messianic leader of the Branch Davidian sect, told a radio station he had been gravely wounded Sunday. As of early Tuesday, Mr. Koresh — who says he is Jesus Christ — had not been publicly heard from since 2 a.m. Monday. Meanwhile, in London, the British Foreign Office said it had informed American authorities of the names of at least 14 British men, women and children who moved to the cult's headquarters in recent months following a call from Mr. Koresh. The office spokesman, speaking anonymously in keeping with British custom, said up to 50 Britons may be involved with the cult. The Seventh-Day Adventist church said about 20 of its members, mostly from Nottingham and Manchester in northern England, became involved in the cult in 1980 after a visit by Mr. Koresh, then using the name Vernon Howell. British television said Mr. Koresh's followers also made a recruiting drive last year.

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A Somali child Tuesday walks past an American Marine guarding Mogadishu's 'green line' (AFP photo)

Officials target grass roots to bring Somalia back from ruin

MOGADISHU (AP) — The phone system was ripped out, water mains were dug up, electrical plants gutted and factories sold for scrap. The central bank was looted and blasted full of holes. How does Somalia even begin to rebuild?

Forget it for now, development officials say. With famine at bay, they plan to ask donor nations this month to fund local health, education and farming projects that will cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

Major projects will have to wait until rival factions can agree on a government, they say. Somalia has been rubber-stamped by dictator Mohammed Siad Barre was driven from power in January 1991 and the country descended into clan warfare.

people back to work," said Cynthia Osterman, spokesman for care, one of several relief groups that would participate in the U.N. plan.

Care, World Concern and other groups would distribute food in exchange for work, the plan says.

Before the civil war, agriculture employed 62 per cent of working Somalis and was 65 per cent of the country's gross domestic product, she said.

The key to Somalia's recovery is livestock, which accounted for 80 per cent of the country's export earnings before the war, officials say.

Without vaccination and health checks, Somalis are forced to sell their cattle, camels and goats for less than market price to foreign traders who turn around and resell at a dramatic profit.

"Before the system's not in place, the Somalis are getting ripped off," Mr. De Boice said.

The draft proposal calls for a \$7.0 million programme by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) for livestock programmes. In addition, the FAO would spend \$12.3 million for seed and farm tools.

While food shipments have drastically reduced hunger, Somalis face widespread outbreaks of malaria, whooping cough and measles, officials say, and health care is in a shambles.

"Hospitals were looted and devastated," Mr. Osterman said. "Even before the civil war, medical care was available to only 27 per cent of the population."

The U.N. draft said that according to a September 1992 study, more than half of Somalia's estimated 354 physicians had left the country of 6.5

million people.

The U.S.-led coalition and relief groups have reopened some hospitals, and the U.N. proposes spending \$23 million on health and nutrition, including creating 500 posts for local health care workers.

Water supplies remain dangerously contaminated. Bacter, 350 kilometres west of Mogadishu, one of the cities worst hit by famine, is getting food shipments. But a study in January showed only 14 per cent of the people there were getting potable water, Mr. Osterman said.

Like hospitals, most water systems, pumps and generators in larger towns were destroyed or looted. Up to 90 per cent of wells are out of service, many destroyed to ensure that opposing military forces could not find water, the U.N. draft says.

The United Nations wants to spend \$12.7 million to rehabilitate water supplies and deliver drinkable water. Care plans to rehabilitate a canal for four villages.

The U.N. plan would also spend \$20 million on employment and \$7.6 million on rebuilding schools.

Individual generators provide electricity to homes, while the military and relief groups have relied on radios and satellite phones for communication.

With no immediate plans for a telephone network, the U.S. army has drawn up a \$20 million plan for cellular phones in Mogadishu with limited service in outlying areas, said Marine Colonel Kevin Keonedy, the coalition's liaison for humanitarian efforts.

The plan was submitted to the United Nations for consideration, he said.

Afghan leader seeks Islamic negotiators to end feuding

KABUL (AP) — The military chief of the embattled government asked Monday that a committee of Islamic scholars, lawyers and intellectuals be formed to help end the bloody feuding among Afghan factions.

In an interview with the Associated Press, Ahmad Shah Masood also said he was preparing a new offensive to crush Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and the other chieftains who have battered Kabul with shells and missiles.

"Not one of them has taken on responsibility for the problems of Afghanistan. When they face problems, they jump in the jeeps and flee to Pakistan, but not one has shown any kind of compassion toward this country," he said.

Mr. Masood, defence minister in the government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani, spoke during a four-hour interview at his home, a former guest house of the communist government.

Mr. Masood also attacked Mr. Hekmatyar's foreign backers. He mentioned no countries by name, but seemed to be talking about Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, whose fundamentalists have sent Mr. Hekmatyar hundreds of millions of dollars.

"We have documents that show that these countries have been giving military and financial assistance to Hekmatyar," said Mr. Masood, pulling out identity

cards and other documents of Arabs killed last month fighting alongside Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami rebels.

Pakistani and Saudi negotiators have been trying to broker an end to the bloodshed that has killed or wounded tens of thousands of people and destroyed much of the city.

Fighting began almost immediately in April, after a 14-year war ended with the ouster of the communists and victory for the Islamic factions.

Mr. Rabbani arrived Monday in Islamabad, the Pakistani capital, for peace talks. Few believe any truce will last, though, because of the intense hatred between Mr. Hekmatyar and Mr. Masood.

"He is a man looking only for power and he will use any method to get it," Mr. Masood said. "We want a political settlement worked out through negotiations," he said. "But if we have to fight, it will be a quick strike. We are preparing for the second round of fighting and we will make it a very short war."

Discontent has been growing in Kabul over Mr. Masood's reluctance to wipe out the long-range missiles and rocket launchers used by Mr. Hekmatyar's rebels.

On Sunday, after a two-week lull, rockets and mortars crashed into a market, a mosque and a huge apartment complex, killing at least 31 people, half of them

children.

After the attack, 200 to 300 demonstrators marched toward the presidential palace, shouting "Death to Rabbani, death to Masood."

Mr. Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e-Islami, and other dissident factions have showered the city with rockets and mortar shells for months.

In an interview with the AP last week at his mountain headquarters south of Kabul, Mr. Hekmatyar gave no indication the shelling would stop.

"We want peace, but the other side is not serious," he said. "In Kabul, you hear shelling. Here there is peace and quiet."

A nationwide assembly voted in December to make Mr. Rabbani president for two more years. But most of the major Muslim leaders accused Mr. Rabbani of paying off the delegates with bribes.

"We are ready to accept an international commission religious scholars, lawyers, intellectuals from the Islamic world to investigate these charges and we will accept their decision," Mr. Masood said in the interview with AP.

"If the commission finds any abuses, I will resign," he said.

Mr. Masood, leader of the best organised rebel force during the 14-year war, now commands a patchwork Islamic army that is defending Mr. Rabbani.

U.S. probing reports of new Iraqi 'repression'

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States said Monday it was investigating news reports that Iraq had launched a campaign of repression against Shiite rebels in the southern marshes.

"There are press reports that talk about the killings of hundreds of Shiites by Saddam Hussein's armed forces. Some of them talk of a massacre," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher told reporters.

"We're looking into those reports, as we look into all such reports, but at this point I'd say I'm not able to confirm any of the specifics at this time," Mr. Boucher said.

He said the pattern of "repression" was well documented and clearly violated United Nations resolutions that ended the Gulf war.

"There have been no major Iraqi military offensives recently, but the small-scale military actions continue against the civilian population," he said.

Also, Iraq continues to impede the efforts of the international community to provide humanitarian relief to all the Iraqi people, he added.

Mr. Boucher described "small-scale" military actions as "skirmishes, forays by small groups of Iraqi soldiers, certain amount of shelling and things like that."

Iraq said Sunday it would welcome visits by foreign reporters to its southern marshes. The offer came in response to a report in London's Observer newspaper saying Iraqi forces shelled villages every night and siphoned off water in an attempt to turn their refuge into a desert.

In Geneva, a U.N. investigation said Iraq had apparently executed hundreds of people from its southern marshes in "death camps" in recent months.

In a report to the U.N. Human Rights Commission, Max Van Der Stoep also cited reports that Iraqi "agents" provoked internal dissent among the marsh residents "that reportedly led to 2,000 deaths in the fall of 1992."

Detainees from southern Iraq reportedly were transported in groups of up to 200 to death camps in the north, the report said. Another account spoke of hundreds of marsh residents being held in such camps, it said.

Farmers in nearby Kurdish-controlled areas said they saw busloads of people with southern Iraqi features arrive and heard gunshots on subsequent evenings, Mr. Van der Stoep said.

The former Dutch foreign minister called the allegations "extremely disturbing."

In an interview, Mr. Van der Stoep declined to elaborate on his sources but said the "mass executions" allegedly happened in recent months. He did not offer a total death count.

Mr. Van der Stoep's annual report to the commission, the top U.N. human rights watchdog now meeting in Geneva, also demanded that Iraq end its economic blockade of Kurdish areas in the north and southern Shiite regions.

Iraqi Kurds may not survive the next winter because they depend on the government to let through international humanitarian aid and have cut down many fruit trees for firewood this winter, the report said.

Torture by Iraqi forces, including beatings, burnings and electric shocks, remained widespread in the past year, it said, citing "an all-pervasive order of repression" in which "innumerable violations" of human rights occur.

Mr. Van der Stoep urged Iraq to stop "interference in the religious activities" of its Shiites.

He said hardship is rising all over Iraq because of U.N. sanctions. But as in earlier reports, he said the deteriorating "humanitarian situation" was the government's fault.

He urged Iraq to accept a U.N. plan for selling oil under international supervision to pay for humanitarian supplies and renewed an appeal for Iraq to open up to foreign human rights monitors.

Sudan says Egypt seeks military end to Halaib row

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's military ruler has accused Egypt of seeking a military solution to a border dispute and warned that the problem could wreck bilateral relations.

Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al-Bashir said Egypt was not serious about reaching a negotiated settlement on the Halaib area and "has decided to solve the Halaib conflict with Sudan militarily."

He spoke in an interview with the Iraqi News Agency that was aired on state television Monday night.

Gen. Bashir repeated charges that Egypt has massed troops at the border and set up new checkpoints. He also said the Egyptian government has begun exploring for minerals and water in Halaib and placed new border markers.

"Those measures would not only harm, but would blow up relations between the two countries," Gen. Bashir said.

Halaib is a triangular area overlooking the Red Sea which both countries claim. Egypt says in 1899 agreement with Britain, then controlling Sudan, set the Egyptian-Sudanese border along the 22nd Parallel. Halaib lies north of that line.

Egypt in 1902 gave Sudan administrative powers in Halaib because the majority of its inhabitants were Sudanese tribesmen. Cairo says that Khartoum has confused local administration with sovereignty.

The dispute, dormant since the late 1950s, flared up at the end of 1991 when Sudan granted a Canadian oil firm a concession for exploration offshore from Halaib. Egypt protested and the deal was scrapped.

A joint committee formed to negotiate a settlement held an inconclusive session last month in Khartoum. The official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) quoted a source close to the talks as saying that the two parties discussed Egypt's "transgressions" in Halaib.

No date set yet for Mideast peace talks

WASHINGTON (USIA) — State Department spokesman Richard Boucher Monday said he does not have a date yet for the next round of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

On February 25, Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev issued a statement in Geneva saying they would invite the parties to a new round of talks during the month of April.

Noting there has been speculation based on religious holidays and calendars, Mr. Boucher told reporters that "until we've actually decided ourselves... I would steer you away from all speculation on any particular date."

While he was not aware of any specific conversations the secretary may have had with Middle Eastern leaders since Mr. Christopher met with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al-Sharaa in Brussels Feb. 25, Mr. Boucher pointed out: "We have been in touch with all the parties to the talks through our embassies. We've had continuing discussions with them on the issue."

"And I think it's important to note in this context that as we approach the next round, we'll continue the discussions that the secretary had on substantive issues and try to make sure that this next round can be as meaningful as possible," the spokesman said.

Mr. Christopher had extensive discussions during his February 18-20 trip to the Middle East. "He found that the parties were very much committed to the peace process, that they were interested in resuming negotiations as soon as possible," Mr. Boucher said. "Based on their statements, we think that we'll be able to participate when we do schedule the next round," he said.

The spokesman was asked to explain the "full partnership" role that Mr. Christopher pledged the U.S. would play when the talks resume. "It means engagement at all levels," he said.

The secretary was "actively involved" in the process, personally, during his trip, and he indicated that he and the United States intend to continue that involvement," Mr. Boucher explained. "But it also means that at other levels, too, we'll be actively engaged with the parties," he said.

Amnesty reports torture continuing in Algeria jails

LONDON (AP) — Amnesty International said Tuesday that torture of prisoners by Algerian security forces, which virtually ceased after 1989, has become widespread again following declaration of a state of emergency last year.

"The organisation has received dozens of testimonies of torture and spoken to victims their families and doctors," the independent, London-based human rights group said in a report.

"Their testimonies show that the practice of torture in Algeria — which had been virtually eradicated after 1988 — resumed after February 1992, and dramatically increased during the last quarter of 1992," it said.

Algeria's five-member High Council of State took over presidential powers on Jan. 14, 1992 following the resignation of President Chadli Benjedid three days before.

The second round of general election voting which had been scheduled for Jan. 16 was meanwhile cancelled, blocking the probable overall election victory for the opposition Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

The front, which had emerged as winner of the first round of voting on Dec. 26, 1991, wanted to replace Algeria's secular, multiparty system with an Islamic state.

Violent demonstrations by supporters of the front broke out around mosques it controlled in the capital Algiers and other towns following the assumption of presidential powers by the High Council of State.

The committee decreed a state of emergency on Feb. 9, 1992, and on Feb. 7 this year renewed the state of emergency indefinitely.

The Amnesty International report said that since February 1992, over 9,000 suspected Islamic activists had been sent to desert internment camps without charge or trial. It said that more than 1,000 continue to be held in the camps.

It said Algerian security forces have killed about 300 people in the last 12 months, many in armed clashes.

"However, a significant number appear to have been innocent bystanders, deliberately killed while allegedly crossing police barriers, breaking the curfew or in other circumstances where they posed no threat of violence," the report said.

Britain tightening controls on arms, technology to Iran

LONDON (AP) — Britain announced Monday it is tightening controls on exports of arms and technology to Iran, which has been accused of developing a huge arsenal.

Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd told parliament no export licences would be granted for any items on international lists of proscribed military or atomic energy equipment, with two exceptions.

The exceptions were goods essential for the safety of civil aircraft and air traffic control systems, and radioactive material for medical equipment.

Export licences would be refused for those exceptions "where there was knowledge or reason to suspect that it would go to a military end-user or be used for military purposes," Mr. Hurd said in a written reply to the House of Commons.

A Foreign Office spokesman later stressed: "This announcement does not extend the list of banned items but introduces more stringent guidelines for approving license applications."

Mr. Hurd said existing export licences, approved under the old guidelines, would remain valid.

"We shall support efforts among supplier countries, in particular the G-7 (Group of Seven industrial powers) and our European partners, to promote a harmonised approach to effective controls on the export of dual use goods to countries of particular concern," Mr. Hurd wrote.

The move followed completion of a government review of export licensing criteria for Iran.

Export restrictions were imposed at the start of the Iran-Iraq war in 1980.

In comments broadcast Monday, Defence Minister Jonathan Aitken told British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Television at an Abu Dhabi arms fair, "We operate what is probably the toughest licensing system in the world... as far as Iran is concerned, there is virtually a total embargo on all equipment which could be regarded as lethal or which comes into any of the key categories, which are now very well defined."

NOTIFICATION

American President Lines, LTD. (APL) are pleased to announce the appointment of

M/S : International Shipping & transport Co. (ISTCO) .

as their new Shipping agent in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan as of 1st. March, 1993 .

For More informations and customers service please contact our new Agent (ISTCO) at the following numbers :

Amman Tel.: 682797 / 698818 / 698810
Aqaba Tel.: 319201 / 319202 / 319203
 Tlx : 21838 Eagle Jo.
 Fax : 698810
 Tlx : 62303 ISTCO JO.
 Fax : 319203

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
 18:00 52 Sur La Une
 18:05 News in French
 18:15 Varieties
 19:30 News in Hebrew
 20:00 News in Arabic
 20:30 Saved by the Bell
 21:30 One Step Ahead
 22:00 After us the Deluge
 22:30 News in English
 23:30 An American Love

PRAYER TIMES

04:41 Fajr
 05:58 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
 11:46 Asr
 15:05 Maghreb
 17:30 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch, Tel. 810740
 Anglican Church of God Church, Tel. 63785
 St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
 De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
 Teresian Church Tel. 623066

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 623541
 Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
 Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772501
 St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
 Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
 Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 624932
 Church of the Nazareth Tel. 875691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Slight drop in temperatures will take place and winds will be westerly fresh. In Aqaba, it will be dusty and winds will be northerly fresh and seas wavy.

Min./Max. temp.
 Amman 8 / 23
 Aqaba 15 / 28
 Dead Sea 9 / 25
 Jordan Valley 12 / 26

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 46 per cent, Aqaba 49 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
 Dr. Ramzi Mizzawi 894788
 Dr. Salwan Daboubi 776751
 Dr. Mahmoud Al Haddad 778299
 Dr. Mahmoud Al Haddad 898787
 Firas pharmacy 661912
 Feroz pharmacy 778336
 Al Azzam pharmacy 637033
 Naima pharmacy 623672
 Al Salam pharmacy 636730
 Yacoub pharmacy 644945
 Shamsi pharmacy 637460
 Naima pharmacy 636732
 Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
 Dr. Ayman Shakh 611011
 Al Quds pharmacy 611011

ZARQA:
 Dr. Wadi Abu Zeid 636381
 Khaleel pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
 Civil Defence Department 661111
 Civil Defence Emergency 199
 Rescuers 630341
 Blood Bank 771211
 Highway Police 843402
 Traffic Police 896390
 Public Security Department 639321
 Hostage Complaints 602800
 Price Complaints 661176
 Water and Sewerage 897467
 Amman Municipality 771013
 Complaints 787111
 Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
 Overseas Calls 010230
 Central Amman Telephone 623101
 Abdlil Telephone Repairs 661101
 Jordan Television 773111
 Radio Jordan 774111
 Water Authority 680100
 Jordan Electricity Authority 615615
 Electric Power 636381
 Company 636381
 RJ Flight Information 08-53220

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53220

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
 Hussein Medical Centre 813813/22
 Khaleel Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
 Al-Jah Maternity, J. Amn 644412/2
 Sabal Amman Maternity 642362
 Mathas, J. Amman 636140
 Palestine, Shamsi 666173/4
 Shamsi Hospital 669131
 University Hospital 642845
 Al-Musader Hospital 667219
 The Islamic, Abdlil 666127/77
 Al-Ahl, Abdlil 666164/6
 Rafaa, Al-Musader 771013
 Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 775112/5
 Army, J. Amn 891611/5
 Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
 Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
 Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983223
 Zarga National Hospital (09)80360
 Dr. Sina Hospital (09)80323
 Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)96990

IRBID:
 Princess Basma Hospital (02)225555
 Greek Catholic Hospital (02)72275
 Bin Ali Nafies Hospital (02) 77100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53220-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
 09:00 Jeddah (RJ)
 09:15 Aqaba (RJ)
 09:25 Larissa (RJ)
 10:00 Aden (RJ)
 10:45 London (RJ)
 10:45 Frankfurt (RJ)
 10:55 Istanbul (RJ)
 11:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
 11:30 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
 11:45 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
 12:15 Rome (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:05 Damascus (RJ)
 05:15 Beirut (ME)
 05:25 Cairo (MS)
 05:35 Jeddah (SU)
 05:45 Amman (RJ)
 05:55 Paris, Damascus (RJ)
 06:05 Vienna, Larnaca (OS)
 06:15 Beirut (ME)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Aqaba (RJ)
 07:15 Rome (RJ)
 07:30 London, Berlin (RJ)
 07:45 Rome, London (RJ)
 07:55 Istanbul (RJ)
 08:00 New York (RJ)
 08:15 Tams, Casablanca (RJ)
 08:30 Amman (RJ)
 08:45 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
 08:55 Riyadh (RJ)
 09:05 New Delhi (RJ)
 09:15 Damascus (RJ)
 09:25 Bangkok (RJ)
 09:35 Amman (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
 06:25 Rome (A2)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
 Apple 700 / 550
 Banana 700 / 700
 Beans (Mukammal) 640 / 640
 Beans 1300 / 1000
 Carrot 1100 / 600
 Cauliflower 210 / 180
 Cucumber (large) 350 / 3

U.S. makes 2nd drop; Muslims killed trying to get parcels

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Air force cargo planes sent more than 21,000 meals and half a tonne of medical supplies hurtling down into eastern Bosnia Tuesday in a second U.S. airdrop intended for cutoff Muslims in the area.

Again, it was not clear if the supplies reached their intended recipients.

Many bundles dropped Sunday night's first mission were said to have missed the target, landing mostly in territory controlled by Serb besiegers.

And one report Tuesday said some Muslims were killed by sniper fire trying to collect supplies dropped by the Americans Monday.

The unconfirmed report, passed on by a U.N. spokesman in Geneva, came from a ham radio operator.

In all, six plane loads of food and medicine have been parachuted into eastern Bosnia in the operation, which is being run out of Rhein-Main Air Base in Germany and was authorised by President Bill Clinton last week.

The most direct U.S. intervention so far in the Bosnian war, the airdrops aim to bring relief to embattled Muslims at minimum risk to American troops.

The C-130s dropping the supplies fly above 10,000 feet (3,000 metres) to reduce the risk of drawing anti-aircraft fire and, as another precautionary measure, have flown their missions at night.

Crew members said cloud cover helped hide them from view early Tuesday as three C-130s dropped nearly 19 tonnes of food and 1,000 pounds (450 kilograms) of medical supplies around

the town of Zepa.

As on Sunday night, no hostile fire was reported.

The last overland food convoy to reach Zepa, a town of 29,000 people, got there on Feb. 21 and it was designated a "high priority" location by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

Agency spokesman Ron Redmond said Tuesday that ham operators in the area were reporting that some Muslims were killed early Monday trying to pick up food dropped between the eastern regions of Cerska and Konjic.

The first three plane loads of food and medicine were dropped in that area overnight Monday, intended for the estimated 20,000 Muslims in Cerska, where aid had been cut off since the war broke out nearly a year ago.

Mr. Redmond said there was no way to verify the radio operators' reports. Bosnia's Muslim-led government in Sarajevo said Monday that the drop appeared an almost total failure.

Up to 10,000 refugees from the fighting in the Cerska area were reported covering on the slopes of icy Mount Udre Monday as Serb tanks stormed into the region. Hundreds died in fighting in that area Sunday, Bosnian radio said.

Mr. Redmond said Tuesday that the U.N. had received an urgent request from authorities in Cerska for an emergency medical evacuation of 1,500 people.

He said the United States was working with the Red Cross to try to send in a fleet of trucks to evacuate the wounded and seriously ill. No U.N. convoy has

reached Cerska since the war began.

The latest Serb advances in eastern Bosnia come as Muslim, Serb and Croat officials gathered in New York for another round of peace talks at U.N. headquarters.

The Serb offensive, launched about two weeks ago after Muslims recaptured some eastern Bosnian territory, might be an attempt to strengthen the Serbs' hand in the talks.

On Monday, Defence Secretary Les Aspin and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Colin Powell issued a statement calling the previous night's airdrop "successful."

"We can confirm that many of the bundles landed in clear areas within the identified drop zone, which is in the area of Cerska," the statement said.

But a senior Pentagon official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said only about one third of the bundles appeared to have hit the mark.

As night fell in Bosnia Monday, only one package had been reported found by Muslims some 30 kilometres northwest of Cerska, the Bosnian news agency BH Press said, quoting a ham radio report.

A Bosnian defence official in the government-held town of Tuzla said bundles with food and medical supplies fell on Serb lines in the rugged, inhospitable mountains around Cerska, an area where up to 20,000 Muslims are surrounded by Serb forces.

Gen. Ratko Mladic, commander of Serb forces in Bosnia, also said some of the aid landed in Serb held areas, "where it was

not intended."

"The Americans didn't get good marks on their first examination, so they should try again," said Murat Efendic, head of an association of eastern Bosnians as he monitored ham radio exchanges in Sarajevo.

Ismer Mustafic, a ham radio operator in Cerska, said Serb militiamen and tanks entered part of the region early Monday after a night's bombardment by artillery. Thousands of villagers fled to nearby woods, valleys and mountains, he said.

"Cerska is burning... they are attacking from all sides, on all lines," said Mr. Mustafic, adding that government forces would try to hold open a corridor toward Sarajevo so people could escape.

Serb troops reportedly overran seven villages outside Cerska on Sunday, Bosnian radio said Monday that 300 civilians were shot or burned to death in those villages, but the report could not be verified.

Meanwhile, Bosnian Croat forces said Monday they were enforcing a blockade of supply convoys for their estranged Muslim allies despite Bosnian government reports that it had been lifted.

The Croatian Defence Council (HVO), the autonomous Bosnian Croat militia force, said it was halting about half of the Muslim-led government army's traffic between the Croatian border and central Bosnia.

Muslims resent the HVO's transformation of southwest Bosnia where it predominates into a protectorate of neighbouring Croatia despite a large Muslim community.



Sarajevo youth throws a stone at a passing U.N. vehicle. The U.N. operation has long been unpopular in the city (AFP photo)

Angolan relief columns resume march on besieged Huambo

LUANDA (R) — Government relief columns are resuming their march on the besieged Angolan city of Huambo where at least 10,000 people have been killed in two months of fighting, state television said.

The television late Monday quoted military sources as saying the columns, which were being harassed by UNITA rebels, had observed a truce while attempts were made to resume peace talks in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

But the march was resuming because Jonas Savimbi's National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) failed to turn up in Addis Ababa, forcing abandonment of the talks.

"As nothing was achieved in terms of a ceasefire, the military columns will continue their march towards the city of Huambo," the television reported.

The rebels said fighting for Huambo was so intense that their

delegates were unable to depart for Ethiopia.

Angolan General Kande Payame, who is directing a relief column from the coastal of Benguela, told Reuters that the weekend that his men would get to Huambo "at all costs" despite their small pace advance of at most 10 kilometres a day.

The battle for Huambo, once UNITA's headquarters in the central highlands, is the most symbolic in the war which resumed with unprecedented ferocity after Mr. Savimbi rejected his September election defeat and May 1991 peace accords which had ended 16 years of war.

The two sides have pounded Huambo to rubble and international aid workers believe the government estimate of 10,000 civilian dead is conservative.

Bodies lie decomposing in buildings and on the streets. Food and water are running out and trapped civilians face death every

time they venture out.

The World Food Programme (WFP) said Friday that urgent relief flights were needed to Huambo to ferry in supplies, treat the thousands of wounded and bury the dead.

France regretted the cancellation of Angola peace talks Monday, saying "full responsibility" lies with UNITA rebels who failed to show up.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Daniel Bernard said everything must be done to "end the logic of war in Angola and create conditions for a true, lasting ceasefire."

On Sunday, U.N. envoy Margaret Anstee gave the rebels an ultimatum to send representatives to Addis Ababa by 9 a.m. Monday or the talks would be cancelled.

"We feel that UNITA bears full responsibility for the failure of this meeting," Mr. Bernard said.

Kohl visits Korea's cold war frontier

SEOUL (R) — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl gazed over the world's last cold war frontier Tuesday and said he wanted to share his experience of national reunification with the divided people of Korea.

"The division of a nation is like cutting a living body in half," Mr. Kohl said.

But, Mr. Kohl, in South Korea on the final day of his five-nation Asian tour, said he hoped inspections before leaving to improve relations with Bonn.

He toured the village of Panmunjom, a village of official buildings on the heavily-fortified inter-Korean border about 40 kilometres north of Seoul.

The man who presided over German unification after the collapse of communism in the east climbed the "peace pagoda" to

get a view into North Korea, one of the world's most reclusive states and one of its last hardline Communist bastions.

There he was briefed on the area, the venue for periodic and mostly fruitless talks on unification between delegates of the two Koreas.

"Panmunjom is a very important and historic meeting place," Mr. Kohl said. "That is because we Germans know the pain of the Koreans and understand it much more than other nations."

Before his trip to the border, Mr. Kohl held an 80-minute meeting with South Korea's President Kim Young-Sam, who was sworn in only last Thursday. Mr. Kohl called on the North to be open about its nuclear programme.

"We urge North Korea to accept mutual nuclear inspection," he said.

Mr. Kohl told a news conference. "We believe that is a precondition for normalising relations (between North Korea and Germany)."

South Korea and its allies believe North Korea is close to building a nuclear bomb and that Pyongyang is dragging its feet over allowing inspections by international authorities or by southern officials.

"The reunification of Germany has given the Korean people, who still suffer from national division, hope and courage. It has taught us many things," Mr. Kim said.

South Korea is eager to learn from the experience of Germany since the two countries share a common fate in their division into capitalist and Communist nations. North Korea has kept itself isolated since the 1950-53 Korean war.

Congo gangway caves in; 146 drown

BRAZZAVILLE, Congo (AP) — At least 146 people drowned when a gangway collapsed as passengers rushed to board a ferry boat, sending scores of people into the Congo River, police said Tuesday.

Fishermen, firemen, police and sailors fished bodies carried by the tide to the river bank at Brazzaville Port Tuesday morning. Ambulances took them to the main hospital morgue of this

central African nation.

The boat Matadi was preparing to carry expelled Zairians from Brazzaville, the Congo capital, across the river to the Zairian capital of Kinshasa.

The vessel, an old one belonging to the state-owned National Transport Service of Zaire, usually carries about 200 passengers.

But many more rushed to board it Monday when the gang-

way was let down, and it caved in under the pressure, police said.

Thirty-three bodies were retrieved by Monday night, and another 113 were found Tuesday morning, they said.

The ferries that ply the river between Brazzaville and Kinshasa are known for their only decks and smugglers who jump overboard just before docking to sneak their goods past customs officials.

"We cannot reduce the role of Russia, but we cannot also organise all structures to meet its interests only," Marshal Shaposhnikov said.

"I think nobody will argue against the fact that Russia is the foundation, the basis of the entire arrangement in the military field and so on. I think there would be nothing bad if Russia acts as the guarantor, provided the interests of the guarantor and the guarantee coincide," he said.

Marshal Shaposhnikov said he also has suggested establishing an "inter-state corporation" to produce military equipment for the council members.

Videotape may yield clues to New York blast

NEW YORK (AP) — A newly discovered videotape of cars coming and going at the World Trade Centre parking garage could yield clues to who planted the bomb that rocked the twin towers.

"It's being reviewed and copied," James Fox, head of the FBI's New York office, said Monday. "We'll know soon."

Investigators said theories for the bombing range from a terrorist attack to revenge by a disgruntled employee, and they're still unsure what kind of explosive killed at least five people and injured more than 1,000.

But investigators got a break Monday when they found a security videotape of vehicles entering and exiting one of three entrances to the underground garage before the blast.

Mr. Fox did not explain why

the existence of the tape emerged only Monday, after days of authorities saying the garage had no security camera.

But he said it could be important because experts believe the bomb was so large it would "test the springs of any car or any van," making it conspicuous on the tape. Investigators have pegged the bomb at up to 1,500 pounds (680 kg), depending on what type of explosive was used.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey said police were also able to collect parking studs from the garage with the plates of each car written on them, and Mr. Fox said the studs have yielded leads. The port authority operates the Trade Centre.

Also, Mr. Fox said, witnesses described a pattern of suspicious movements of vehicles near the centre before the blast. "Activity... that we find very interesting and that we're following up on."

President Bill Clinton sought Monday to "discourage the American people from overreacting" to the World Trade Centre bombing.

Mr. Clinton, responding to questions during a visit to New Jersey, said it was not clear whether the bombing was a terrorist act because the investigation is incomplete.

But, even if it does turn out to have been an act of terrorism, Mr. Clinton urged Americans not to overreact.

"We've been very blessed in this country to be free of the kinds of terrorist acts that have gripped other countries," he said. "I would discourage the Amer-

ican people from overreacting to this," Mr. Clinton said. "I am very concerned about it but I think it is also important that we not overreact."

If it was a terrorist act and "you stop doing what you are doing, they have won half the battle... I would plead with the American people and the good people of New York to keep your courage up and go on about your lives."

He said he had placed the resources of several federal agencies at the disposal of New York authorities investigating Friday's explosion.

Mr. Clinton said he was in close contact with the FBI and other agencies involved in the effort.

Mr. Clinton reiterated his sorrow and support for the families of the victims and those injured.

He said he would encourage the American people from overreacting to this, Mr. Clinton said. "I am very concerned about it but I think it is also important that we not overreact."

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WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Diana arrives in Nepal

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Princess Diana received a royal welcome Tuesday in this rugged Himalayan kingdom where a decade ago her estranged husband confirmed rumours he would marry her. Crown Prince Dipendra and Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala greeted the Princess of Wales at Tribhuvan Airport. On Thursday, Princess Diana will dine with King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya at the royal palace, contradicting British news reports that she would be snubbed by Nepal's royalty because of her alleged marital indiscretions. Princess Diana was on a private four day visit to inspect British funded agriculture and irrigation projects. It was in Nepal 11 years ago that Prince Charles said he would marry then-Lady Diana Spencer. The Eton-educated Dipendra shook hands with Princess Diana as she stepped from a commercial Royal Nepal Airlines flight from New Delhi.

Mitterrand to visit Moscow on March 16

PARIS (R) — President Francois Mitterrand of France will travel to Moscow on March 16 for a day-long visit and talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the president's office announced Tuesday. The visit will follow Mr. Mitterrand's March 9 trip to Washington for a get-acquainted session with President Bill Clinton. In each case, the situation in the former Yugoslavia is expected to rank high on the agenda. French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas was in Moscow Tuesday to prepare for Mr. Mitterrand's trip. Mr. Dumas said Monday he also would express to Mr. Yeltsin France's wish to see Russia participate in an eventual multinational force that would be established if a peace plan for Bosnia under discussion is approved by all parties plus the United Nations. Regional conflicts in the former Soviet Union also were to be discussed by Mr. Dumas.

11 killed in Venezuela prison riot

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Inmates at a crowded jail in northern Venezuela attacked dozens of convicts sent from another prison. Authorities said at least 11 inmates were stabbed to death. Police and National Guard units arrived at Tocoron Jail to quell the riot, which started Monday morning. The jail is on the outskirts of Maracay, about 50 kilometres west of Caracas, the capital. The violence began as dozens of prisoners arrived from Catia Jail in Caracas, which is scheduled to close by year's end. Other prison wardens have refused to accept the inmates until their facilities are expanded and renovated.

Philippine military to undergo AIDS tests

MANILA (R) — The Philippines' 160,000-strong armed forces are to be tested for AIDS after a Marine chosen to serve with U.N. forces in Cambodia was found to be HIV positive. "The chief of staff ordered everybody to be tested to be sure," armed forces spokesman Colonel Benjamin Enrile told reporters in Manila Tuesday. Testing for the HIV virus which causes AIDS would begin immediately and would be carried out by the main military hospital in Manila, he added. Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Lizardo Abad said AIDS tests would become part of the annual medical examination of all military officers and enlisted men. The Marine was immediately withdrawn from a 68-man Philippine Navy contingent to be sent to help police a U.N.-brokered ceasefire agreement in Cambodia.

American aide leaves U.N., complains of mismanagement

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — An outgoing U.S. official at the United Nations says the world body is "battered" by antiquated management, staff patronage and "almost surreal" budget practices.

Dick Thornburgh, the highest ranking American at the United Nations, warned in a report to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali that if the problems were not fixed, the world body would not be able to meet the increasing demands placed upon it after the end of the cold war.

Mr. Thornburgh, a former U.S. attorney general and Pennsylvania governor, stepped down Monday as undersecretary-general.

In his report, Mr. Thornburgh criticised personnel practices that led to "too much 'deadwood' doing too little work and too few good staff members doing too much."

He said U.N. managers lack the power "to reward superior performance and to sanction substandard performance." He reminded Dr. Ghali of his recommendation to appoint an inspector general as a permanent watchdog against "abuses."

Following the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991.

The Congress will meet on March 10 to discuss his proposals for sharing power with the legislative branch, he said.

If accepted by Congress, the proposals will "solve the constitutional deadlock we are in," Mr. Yeltsin said.

If Congress refuses to accept the agreement, he vowed to appeal directly to the people.

Mr. Yeltsin first proposed the nationwide referendum in December, after the Congress rejected his choice for prime minister, reformist Yegor Gaidar.

In a speech Sunday to the Congress' influential Civic Union bloc of industrialists, Mr. Yeltsin criticised the Congress for trying to become a parallel government and appropriating presidential powers.

Meanwhile, top defence officials from six former Soviet republics have recommended forming a NATO type military council to ensure collective security and defence among members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), an official said Monday.

The six also will encourage the other four CIS states to join the collective Security Council, Commonwealth Military Commander

COLUMN

N. Zealand mothers ordered to guard babies

AUCKLAND (R) — New mothers at an Auckland hospital were instructed Tuesday not to leave their babies unattended after a five-day-old boy was snatched from his cradle. James Collins was taken while his mother was out of her room at Auckland's National Women's Hospital Monday. Gaye Tozer, manager of women's health at the hospital, said mothers would be told to take their babies to the hospital nursery if they were leaving their room. Police said they were continuing their search for the baby.

McCartney arrives in Australia

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Paul McCartney arrived Monday for the start of a "world tour" during which he will play songs from his days as a Beatle as well as his 1970s hits as soloist and with his 1970s band, Wings. McCartney will have his first concert in Perth Friday followed by shows in Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney and Auckland, New Zealand, before leaving for the United States and Canada and finally, Europe. He has played only twice before in Australia — with the Beatles in 1966 and with wings in 1975. In a statement released by his Australian publicist last week, McCartney said his world tour would draw attention to environmental issues, such as the hole in the ozone layer. He said voters worldwide should support politicians committed to cleaning up the environment. "Politics should go beyond the matters of one country, politics should be addressed to the planet," he said.

Topless protesters acquitted

KITCHENER, Ontario (AP) — Five women arrested for baring their breasts at a rally were found innocent Monday of committing an indecent act. "This was within the community's standard of tolerance," Judge Katie McGowan said of the women's conduct at a demonstration at a city park in July. The five women were among 1,000 people protesting the conviction of Owen Jacob, a student who was charged a year earlier for walking topless in the town of Guelph. Judge McGowan said she based her decision on witnesses who testified Canadians could tolerate the sight of a woman's bare breasts in public and also on a police videotape. "No one shown on the video appears to be offended or titillated," she told the provincial Division of Ontario court.

Burglars take \$1.68 million in furs

HONG KONG (AP) — Burglars snatched more than 13 million Hong Kong dollars (\$1.68 million) worth of mink furs from a warehouse near the Chinese border, police reported Monday. Police said a warehouse manager reported the theft after discovering the padlock to the building in Lok Ma Chan had been broken over the weekend. No arrests have been made. It wasn't immediately clear whether the minks were raw materials or ready-to-wear garments. Nir was it clear whether the haul was the largest-ever theft of furs in this British colony, the world's biggest producer of fur garments.

This story must have been leaked

LOS ANGELES (R) — What's in a name? Quite a bit, says a group representing Americans of Welsh origin. The organisation sued some of the United States' major news organisations in a bid to have them stop using the word "welsh" as a derogatory term meaning "to fail to pay a wage or debt or to fulfil an obligation." The Robin Hood Foundation and the Welsh American/TWM Sion Cati Red Dragon Legal Defence Fund sued such publications as Newsweek and the Wall Street Journal, saying such a fighting word "should be declared...outside of constitutional free speech protection."

Helped out of a jam

TOKYO (R) — A drunk who slipped and trapped his head between a railway carriage and the station platform owes his life to 50 fellow passengers who tilted the wagon. The 66-year-old man fell into the gap as the train began in Osaka Sunday, a spokesman for West Japan Railway said. The driver hit the brakes, wedging the man's head against the platform, and a passenger who tried to pull him gave up when he cried out in pain. About 50 passengers then formed a rescue team to tilt the carriage. The man escaped with minor cuts.